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Full Length Research Paper

Major problems of flower harvesters in Allahabad city, India

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This topic is concern with the study of flower harvesters because this is also a drudgery prone activity which affects their body and they also feel some kind of problem which is explained here. The data of the study are collected by interview schedule as well as by their anthropometry measurements. The study was undertaken in Allahabad city in block Chaka, where rose and Marigold flowers are propagated on large scale.

Key word: Drudgery ergonomic, anthropometry, bending, flower, harvesters.

INTRODUCTION

India being an agricultural country, where majority live in the rural areas, both men and women work very hard in the fields. The present study was undertaken in Allahabad's rural areas where the women are engaged in harvesting of Roses and Marigolds. These two flowers- Rose and Marigold are very much in demand in Allahabad. Harvesting of these is a very drudgery prone activity for the rural women because Rose thorns make them bleed from their hands and all over their body and their dress get torn. At the time of harvesting of Marigold, women feel pain in their backbone, thighs, legs, neck etc because bending during harvesting causes pain. These are major drudgeries of harvesting of rose and marigold for these rural women. These two flowers are planted frequently because Allahabad is a Holy and Religious city. Here every day in all the temples people use the flowers for worship as well as the Dhoopbatti and Agarbatti sticks which has fragrance and these two flowers are being used especially for fragrance. Rose and Marigold are cash crops in Allahabad city.

India has a long floriculture history and flower growing is an age old enterprise. What it has lacked is its commercialization. The growing demands of flowers in the domestic as well as the export market will require a concerted effort on the part of the government as well as the private entrepreneurs to develop floriculture along scientific lines. Paying attention to the input needs, better resource management and making various entrepreneur friendly policies would lead to a balanced growth of the industry.

After analyzing the situation of women workforce in India, a very distressing picture comes into the frame. From planting, weeding, harvesting to sowing is solely done by women which are more drudgery prone operations but people rarely recognize the drudgery involved in these activities. They silently bear heavy fatigue, muscular pain and postural problem developed from hard labor. To their relief, it is expected that this kind of drudgery will be reduced not by simple feat but by the introduction of 'Ergonomical Study', that is the theory, principles, data and methods designed in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance."

Ergonomics is the applied science of equipment design, as for the workplace, intended to maximize productivity by reducing operator fatigue and discomfort. Ergonomics is employed to fulfill two goals - health and productivity. Proper ergonomic design is necessary to prevent repetitive strain injuries, which develops and can lead to long-term disability.

All India Coordinated Research Project-(AICRP) in Home Science, Department of Family Resource Management , GBPUA&T Pantnagar (2000) endeavored to conduct technological interventions for reducing drudgery of farm women as women holds the key to rural prosperity and improved livelihood security.

Women who involve in floriculture get very high entrepreneurial opportunities. But, so far none or very little effort has been done on entrepreneur development among women farmers. Rose and marigold are the main

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Table 1. Anthropometry measurements of respondents.

Weight	No. of female Respondent	Percentage	No. of male Respondent	Percentage	Height	No. of female Respondent	Percentage	No. of male Respondent	Percentage
40-45	6	11.32	-	0	150-160	48	90.57	8	15.09
45-ss55	27	50.94	18	33.96	161-170	5	9.43	28	52.83
56-65	20	37.74	15	28.3	171-180	-	0	14	26.41
66-75	-	0	18	33.96	181-190	-	0	3	5.66
76-85	-		2	3.74	Total	53	100	53	100
Total	53	100	53	100					

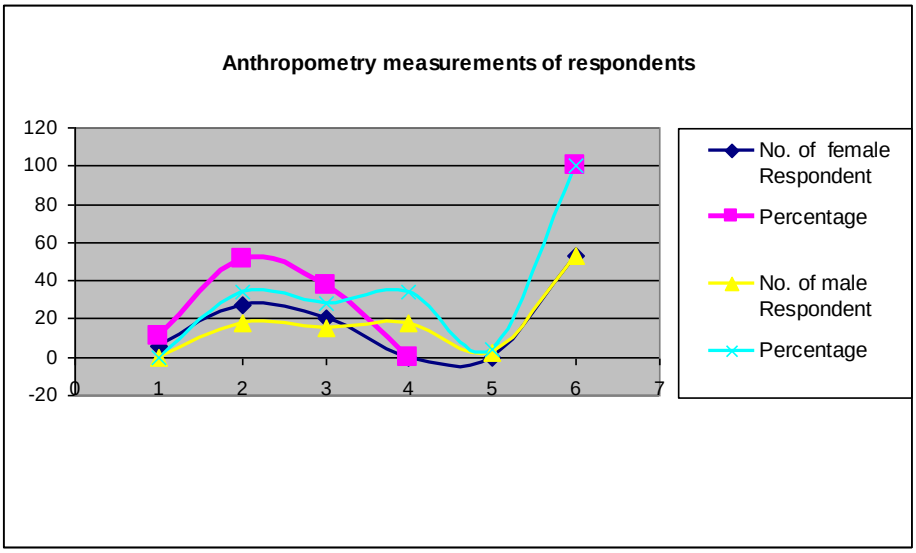

Figure 1.

cash crops of Allahabad that involves women at great number.

According to the International Ergonomics Associations (1949) “Ergonomics (or human factors) is the scientific discipline concerned with the understanding of the interactions among human and other elements of a system and the profession that applies.

OBJECTIVES

Keeping the above fact in mind, the present study is planned to be carried out with following objectives:

- To take the anthropometry measurements of flower puckers.
- To know the type of problems faced by puckers.

METHODOLOGY

The research procedure and technique used in arriving at

(i) Location of the study:-

- District -Allahabad,

Table 2. Kind of problem they face when they pick flower.

What kind of problem they face when they pick flower				
Name of problem	**F**	**Percentage**	**M**	**Percentage**
Bleeding	16	30.19	15	28.3
Skin problem	3	5.66	2	3.77
Infection	2	3.77	2	3.77
Cuts	20	37.74	10	18.87
Injuries	10	18.87	18	33.96
Other	2	3.77	4	7.55
Nothing	-	0	2	3.77
Total	53	100	53	100

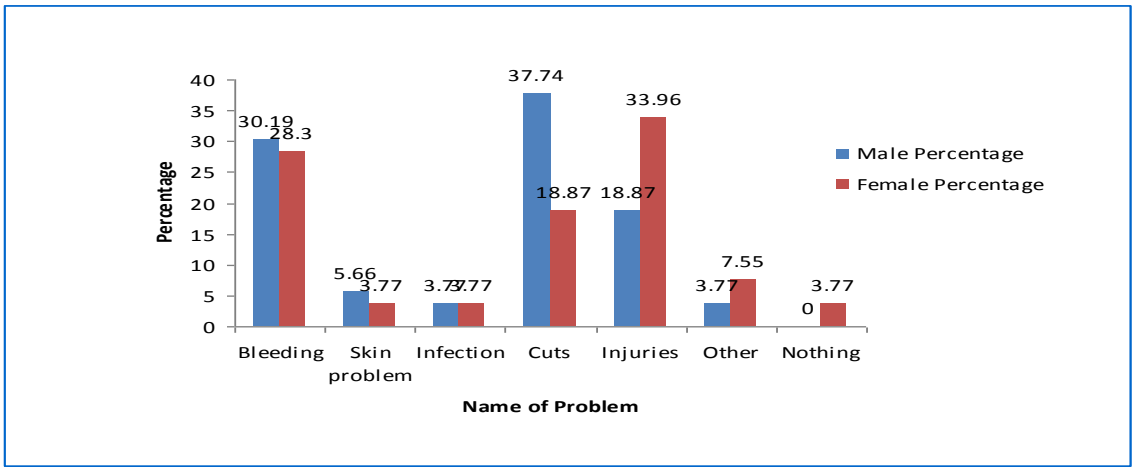

Figure 2.

- Block- Chaka,
- Villages of Block Chaka

(ii) Sampling Procedure: –

- Sample selection and size –A sample of 106 farmer, 53 from each harvesting of Rose and Marigold respectively will be selected for the study.
- A village inventory and interview schedule will be developed and administered with the BDO, Sabhapati and farm women respectively.

iii) Tools for the data collection: - The following tools will be selected for the data collection:

(A) Interview schedule:

An interview schedule will be prepared and divided in the following sections:

To know the problems faced by harvesters at the time of flower picking.

(B) Anthropometric measurements:

To take their height measurements.

(C) Weighing machine:

To know the body weight of the respondents.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

According to the survey of the study the weight of the respondent is divided into five division in which 40-45kg 11.32% female respondent are doing this work of flower harvesting and no male respondent are of this weight and 45-55kg of weight 50.94% female respondent do this work but 33.96% male are doing harvesting of flowers

then in range of 56-65 kg of weight 37.74% female worker are here but there is 28.3% male worker of this weight and then the weight of 66-75kg not any single woman is of this weight while 33.96% male workers are here and In last but not in least there is 3.74% male workers are of 76-85kg and there is no female of this weight.

According to survey of study the height of the respondent is divided into four division in which 150cm.-160cm. 90.57% female respondent are doing this work of flower harvesting and only 15.09% male respondent are of this height and 161cm.-170cm.of height only 9.43% female respondent do this work but 52.83% male are doing harvesting of flowers then in range of 172 cm.-180cm. no more female worker is here but there is 26.41% male worker of this height and In last but not in least there is 5.66% male workers are of 181cm.-190cm and there is no female of this height.

According to table 30.19% female and 28.3% male face bleeding problem, 5.66% female and 3.77% male face skin problem,3.77% female and 3.77% male face infection problem, 37.74%female and 18.87% male face problem of cuts,18.87% female and 33.96% male face problem of injuries,3.77% female and 7.55% male face other problem, and only 3.77% male feel not any problem when they pick the flower.

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